

GOD DOESN'T MAKE JUNK

Bring it on.

MONDAY

Groovy, it's

TUESDAY

Be ...

unique

So, here's the story ...

King Saul and his army were about to battle the Philistines. A giant Philistine named Goliath came forward challenging the Israelites. This guy was huge. He was between 8 and 9 feet tall. His armor weighed more than a man. He was taunting them, saying, "Am I not a Philistine and are you not servants to Saul? Choose a man to fight me. If he wins, then we will be your slaves. But, if I win, you will be our slaves." The Israelites were afraid. No one wanted to volunteer to fight against this gargantuan soldier. The taunting and insulting by the great Goliath went on for more than a month.

Now this kid, David, had some older brothers on the battlefield. His dad had sent him to take some food to his brothers and check on them. When David got there, he heard Goliath making his usual threats against the people. David said, "What are we going to do about this guy? Who does he think he is to defy the armies of the living God?" David's brothers and the other soldiers got mad at him for being so bold with his words. David told King Saul, "Don't worry. I'll go fight him." Saul told him he couldn't because he was just a kid. David told Saul that he had killed a lion and a bear while watching his father's sheep and that he wasn't afraid, because God would save him from the Philistine. So Saul let him go. They put the king's armor on David for protection, but it was heavy and he wasn't used to it, so he took it off. He, instead, chose some smooth stones and his slingshot. Goliath was insulted by this kid coming to battle him. David told him that it was God who would defeat him that day. As Goliath headed toward him, David ran forward and struck Goliath in the head with a stone slung from his slingshot and killed him.

Read the story for yourself in

1 Samuel 17

Take it to God

While you're praying this week, ask God to show you how He might want to use you to help others — issues you can relate to or things you're good at to encourage someone else who's struggling.

Halfway there

WEDNESDAY

A.M.

You wanna be ...

sure

certain; secure;
definite; confident;
assured; satisfied
free from doubt

or

uncertain

unsettled; unsure;
in doubt; unknown;
up in the air

God told Samuel,
“Don’t pay attention
to his appearance or
his height, because I
have refused him. God
doesn’t see like man
sees; man looks at the
outward appearance,
but God looks at the
heart.”
—
1 Samuel 16:7

Throm your heads up

THURSDAY

A.M.

Make a difference ...

Step up:

Take time to get to know someone before you decide whether you like them or not. Don’t judge what they are wearing or what they may look like.

Take it up a notch:

If you have friends who are quick to judge others by outward appearance, challenge them to step up with you by getting to know others better before writing them off. As a group of friends you can be supportive of each other and those who may get rejected or looked down upon a lot. Everyone needs a friend. Be that friend. Have friends who are those kinds of friends. You never know how much of an impact that could make on someone who has a hard time making friends — or feels left out a lot because of things they can’t control.

Noon

Noon

P.M.

Poll your friends ...

Does your opinion of someone come from what they look like?

Yes

No

Jesus did lots of miracles while He was on the earth. Read about one of them here:

Matthew 12:10-13

P.M.

Eve



FRIDAY

Finale

God used a kid to do what the adults couldn't

David was just a kid, yet God used him to battle a giant who everyone was afraid of.

You see, age or size doesn't matter — it's faith.

One thing David definitely had was faith. And, what's crazy is apparently the grownups didn't.

David had spent a lot of time in the fields alone watching over his family's sheep. He must have done a lot of thinking about God and learning to rely on Him when he was scared out there without anyone else.

David was certain of the strength of God and His faithfulness. He had no worries looking at that big ol' Goliath. David knew his God was the maker of all

things, and is more than able and willing to look after His own people. How do you suppose all his older brothers felt when the kid defeated the enemy no one else had dared to go near? They didn't have any confidence in a young kid like David to do any good — yet he did.

People often compare themselves to others in lots of different ways, trying to measure up to what they want to be. Problem is, the things they use as guides for success are generally not accurate or true.

It's never been about being the oldest, biggest, strongest or smartest ... it is all about fully trusting and relying on God.

WEEKEND

WoodHoo!

Sat.

Sun.

Did you know?

Did you know that the reason a lot of people look down on themselves is because they are busy trying to compare themselves to everyone else?

There are countless ways to do that, but many are superficial and pointless, like trying to compete with looks, clothes, money, grades, homes, cars, neighborhoods, circles of friends, ... the list goes on and on.

Take a serious look at what things you are using as gauges to mark where you stand.

So, let's wrap it up

There are lots of times in our lives where problems or tragedies are going to look just like Goliath — and feel just as scary to overcome. But God gives us this story to remind us that we don't need to rely on our own power or might to get through things. We just need Him. He is the One who fights our battles. Our strength lies in our faith and our joy. Putting that confidence in Him because He can (and is willing to) handle anything we are facing will help us rest easy, which leaves us with a calm, happy, joyful attitude.

Faith is not something that we just have buckets of sitting all around for the taking. But it doesn't take a whole lot of it to make a difference.

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus says, "... if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move

from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

I know what you're thinking, if it's that easy then why isn't everything better than this?

The thing about faith is that there can't be any doubt mixed in.

If you're gonna believe, you've got to be all in.

It's not really believing if it's only kinda, sorta or a little bit, now is it?

You could tell by David's words and actions that he did not even have the slightest doubt about the outcome of that battle. He wasn't worried in the least.

It was easy-peasy — a piece of cake. He felt that way because his faith had been growing as he went through things. He saw God come through for him when he battled the bear. And again when he faced the lion.

That's why paying attention to what God is doing in our lives is so important; as the issues of life get harder and scarier, our faith needs to grow bigger and stronger so we don't get overwhelmed or feel defeated.

You see, there's nothing big enough to challenge God's ability or power.

And He takes care of His own.

In Psalm 34:17-18, David, when he was older, said, "The Lord hears his people when they call to Him. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed."

David spent his whole life building a relationship with God ... and it showed.

Even when he was young he didn't look at himself as some shrimpy little runt in a showdown with an unbeatable warrior.



Vicky's
VIEW

He saw himself as a friend of Almighty God who had his back in any kind of trouble — and Goliath was certainly no match for the great "I am."

God is your Creator, and He did not make you to be fearful and anxious and wimpy. You are much more than that.

So, the next time you think you're too young or too small, or simply not enough — don't count on that to be true.

David wasn't the only young person to be recorded as an example of God's best and most loyal, faithful subjects. There were others. In 1 Timothy 4:12, it says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Ponder this:

Who is someone you haven't really given a chance to become friends with you?

Time to take charge of your life:

has been bugging me lately, bringing me down. What can I do to change that? Do I need help from someone else? Who?

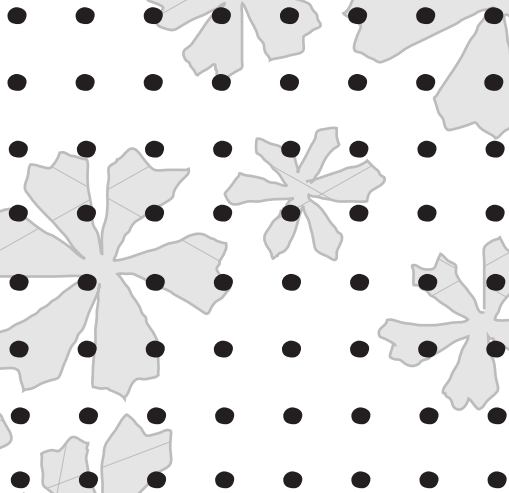
Something good that happened this week was:

Let's read:

1 Samuel 17

Claiming the promised land

To play, connect two adjacent (next to each other) dots. Take turns with your opponent. If you complete a square, you get another turn. The one with the most squares at the end of the game wins.



You are ...

great

artwork

Wandering the wilderness

Make your way along the words to make a sentence. Your journey will form one single path. You can only go north, south, east, or west and the path must never cross over itself. Start at the northwest corner and finish at the southeast corner.



Y U R T A L
 O O Y E D E
 U R P U I N
 S O P R S T
 E I S I N S

answer on page 332

Matthew 7:7

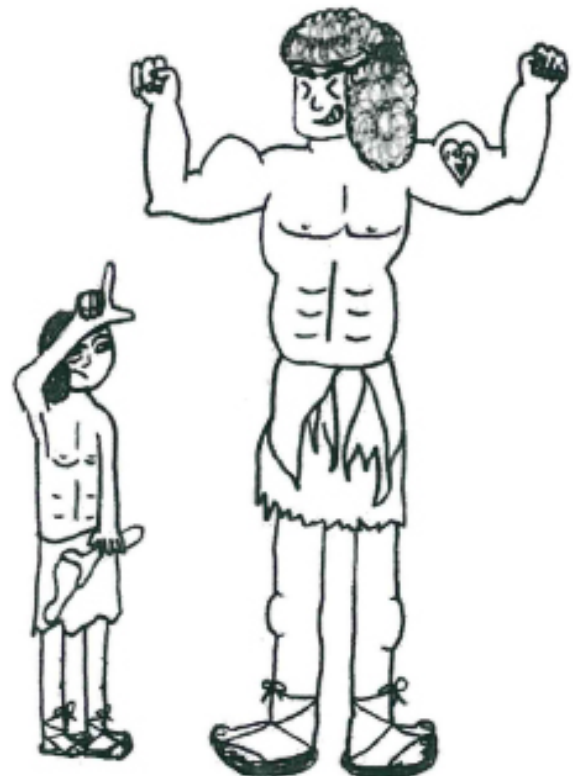
answer on page 316

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B	E	A	R	H	O	B	R	O	N	Z	E
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T	S	E	N	I	T	S	I	L	I	H	P
A	G	E	S	F	D	P	S	T	O	N	E
I	B	H	W	S	M	A	L	L	N	C	R
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G	I	C	V	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| DAVID | PHILISTINES | CHAMPIONS |
| GOLIATH | BRONZE | SHEEP |
| STONE | ISRAELITES | GATH |
| STRENGTH | FIGHT | FLOCK |
| SAUL | BIG | LION |
| GOD | SMALL | BEAR |

Delight

art by Cassandra Misa



Goliath: "Who will fight me?"
 David: "Whatever, loser. Let's do this."

Design

Draw a picture of David fighting Goliath.

